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NSC BRIEFING

25 June 1958

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

CAMBODIA-SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Cambodia has charged South Vietnamese forces have "invaded" Cambodian territory to depth of 4 miles, and has issued a "national call to arms."
 - A. Incursion is alleged to have occurred in northeastern Cambodia, opposite the Pleiku region of Central Vietnam where Saigon 10 days ago charged Cambodian with changing border markers by force.
 - B. Boundary in this remote area poorly defined and in dispute up to depth of several miles.
 - C. Saigon reacted sharply to the reported incursion by Cambodian troops and apparently now has taken steps to restore the status quo.
- II. Saigon denies any invasion of Cambodian territory by its forces, and MAAG reports no evidence.
 - A. However, routine preparations being made by Vietnamese army to conduct security sweep against local dissidents along the border may give rise to further alarm.
- III. There is danger of border warfare developing in the highly charged atmosphere.
 - A. Exaggerated reports and misinformation from field are aggravating traditional suspicions and animosity.
 - B. In addition South Vietnam has become convinced Cambodia is about to move toward more friendly relations with the bloc.

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IV. Prime Minister has called on US to force Saigon to withdraw or Cambodia will turn to other "friendly powers" for aid.

A. Cambodia has thus far avoided diplomatic relations with Peiping because of fear of Communist subversion.

B. Cambodian officials generally feel US will not support Phnom Penh in its disputes with South Vietnam and Thailand because of Cambodia's neutral foreign policy.